

Evergreen Bank Group eNews | February 2024

[Back to All Articles >](#)**Why February 29, 2024?**

Remember ‘rounding’ from Junior High math? Rounding is why we need an extra day in the calendar year every four years. Without a Leap Year and the extra February 29, our summers would begin in December!

Let’s back up to over 2,000 years ago. Turns out that it takes the Earth 365.242190 days to orbit the Sun, not the 365 days we all remember. In 45 A.D., this prompted Julius Caesar to create the Julian calendar, which introduced the concept of an extra day every four years. This was supposed to compensate for the orbit needing more than 365 days, but less than 366, to get around the sun.

But it wasn’t quite right yet, and it took another thousand plus years to figure out that adding a day to the calendar every four years was too often. By 1582 AD, there had been 10 days too many added. That’s when Pope Gregory XIII created the Gregorian calendar and coined the year with the make-up orbit day as Leap Year. He further defined Leap Years as occurring in every year that is divisible by four in century years that can be evenly divided by four. That’s means 2000 was a leap year, but 1900 was not.

Since February 29 is such a rare occurrence, the day offers some unusual opportunities. In the United Kingdom, there is a tradition that women use this day to propose to their future husband. There are more theories to the origin of this tradition than there are Leap Years. One idea is that a nun asked the patron saint of Ireland St. Patrick to allow women to propose to suitors that were too shy to pop the question themselves. St. Patrick obliged, but women could only propose on February 29. Another theory is from the days of Queen Margaret of Scotland. In 1288, the Queen made it law that women could propose on February 29, but if the man said no, he still had to kiss the proposer or pay with a pair of women’s gloves or a gown. What is probably the true origin of this tradition began with Pope Gregory XIII and his invention of the Gregorian calendar. So many British thought it was a preposterous idea, a play was written about it. In the play, it was joked that February 29 was so ludicrous, the world would go awry and women would act like men. In the 1900s, the tradition was at its most popular and now retailers even have sales and promotions for women who are planning their proposals on the

special day.

For those lucky enough to be born on February 29, they are given the endearing name of leapling or leaper. It is truly a unique birthday because there is a one in 1,461 chance of being born on this day. In 1988, leaplings Mary Ann Brown and Birdie Lewis from Anthony, Texas asked their Chamber of Commerce to host a national celebration for all leapers. It worked, and now every leap day, this town has a birthday celebration that spans four days, drawing people from across America and even other countries.

It'd be even rarer to be born on February 30, a very special day reserved just for Hobbits. *Lord of the Rings* fans know that only Hobbits celebrate February 30 every year because their calendar of 12 months has 30 days every month. Of course, their seasons are different than ours so that all makes sense.

Another way to make Leap Year very special is to raise a glass with a drink named after it. First invented and aptly titled on February 29, 1928, the Leap Year Cocktail is gin, sweet vermouth and Grand Marnier. If you want to give it a go this month, visit Serious Eats for the exact recipe.

So cheers, and may your February 29, 2024, be as exciting as the day itself!

Resource: <https://restless.co.uk/leisure-and-lifestyle/learning/fun-facts-about-leap-years/>

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Clickbait can be fun. Don't we all want to know how to lose weight by doing one simple thing every night? Or to see current pictures of your favorite childhood actor?

These ads that pop up when you're browsing the web looking for the perfect boots or checking email can be tempting to click, but they also link you to businesses that want your contact information. Once you click on those puppies or Harry Potter actors, the completely unrelated business will be able to send you more pop up ads for years. Learn how to identify clickbait and discover ways to protect yourself with our Digital Defense Library article found here:

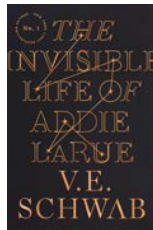
<https://team.digitaldefense.com/index.php?var=2ec897646fd71a38d0f1ed7b975e7b4f&page=32>

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During the cold months of January and February, it can be wonderful to snuggle up by a cozy fire and read a good book.

GoodReads lists the following books as the Top 5 of the 2020's. Of course, we expect this list to change during the next six years but this list is a great start!

**The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue**by [V.E. Schwab](#)

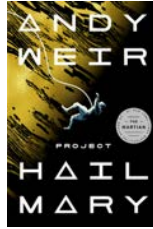
In 1714, a young French woman makes a dark deal to become immortal, but the consequence is that she is forgotten by everyone she meets.

**The House in the Cerulean Sea (The House in the Cerulean Sea, #1)**by [T.J. Klune](#) (Goodreads Author)

This beautifully written fiction novel about the DICOMY (Department In Charge of Magical Youths) allows the reader to fall in love with each of its many characters.

**The Midnight Library**by [Matt Haig](#) (Goodreads Author)

Nora finds a way to try out many different versions of her life so she can figure out which is the life for her.

**Project Hail Mary**

by [Andy Weir](#) (Goodreads Author)

When Ryland wakes up from his coma, he discovered tubes attached to his body as he tries to remember what happened to earth.

**The Vanishing Half**

by [Brit Bennett](#) (Goodreads Author)

Twin sisters run away at 16 and then their lives take entirely different paths.

Learn more about these books and see more book lists at [GoodReads.com](https://www.goodreads.com).